

Montana City School
Report to the Taxpayers
October 2010

EXHIBIT 8
DATE Jan 13, 11
HB 15

At Montana City School, we attain the highest standard of educational excellence by operating "above the line" in everything we do. Montana City School's advantage combines safety, support and belonging to leverage the potential of each individual student. Our focus remains on the whole child. We enjoy and appreciate the support of a community that values education and holds its children accountable. We just don't have the kinds of discipline referrals that make the headlines; we do have many successful students.

Montana City School students continue to exceed state and national averages in academic performance. Over 90% of our students are proficient in reading and over 80% of our students show proficiency in math as measured by state criterion referenced testing. Curriculum review is scheduled in a rotation so that a different area is reviewed and updated every year. Our math curriculum was reviewed, updated and adopted last year and new textbooks purchased. This school year we are reviewing the communication arts curriculum and will adopt and purchase new reading textbooks.

Our enrollment appears to be stabilizing without a large increase this year. We began providing bus service three years ago and it has been a huge success. Based on ridership and to ensure student safety, the Board of Trustees added a third bus this year. With approximately 240 students using the service, all three buses are full.

We continue to take pride in our fiscal responsibility and plan proactively for both short and long term needs. As previously reported, Montana City School received a Quality Schools Energy Grant in the amount of \$24,222 and a \$17,354 Northwestern Energy Grant which allowed us to improve our energy efficiency. Projected savings of \$6,000 per year can be used to offset future energy costs. In addition, the district has taken advantage of several quick start grants and stimulus programs. Funding projects with these funds allows us to use general fund and voted levy monies to continue to support our educational programs without asking for additional taxpayer levies.

The school district has:

- received \$161,820 in Department of Commerce Quality Schools Grant funds to address a number of inefficiencies in our heating and ventilation system.
- received \$25,000 in Department of Commerce Quality Schools planning grant funds to complete a comprehensive facility plan.
- received a \$5,000 ARRA School Nutrition Equipment Grant for a new refrigerator and milk cooler.
- focused on increasing its bonding capacity to prepare for future growth by **paving down existing debt.**
 - ❖ In 2003, the total district debt was \$2,765,000; by the end of the current fiscal year it will be approximately \$1,500,000.
- maintained the educational excellence that the district is known for through proactive management of its general fund budget, its allocation of state dollars and application for and receipt of grants.
- not asked for additional taxes through a technology levy.
- not asked for additional taxes through a building reserve levy.
- not asked for additional taxes through a building bond.
- minimized the tax impact in districts 27 and 27B. Below is a snapshot of the taxes collected on a home with a market value of \$100,000:
 - ❖ 2003 – \$442 collected to pay for the general fund and pay off district debt
 - ❖ 2007 – \$350 collected to pay for the general fund and pay off district debt
 - ❖ 2008 – \$315 collected to pay for the general fund, bus transportation and pay off district debt
 - ❖ 2009 – \$303 collected to pay for the general fund, bus transportation and pay off district debt
 - ❖ 2010 – \$280 collected to pay for the general fund, bus transportation and pay off district debt

Planning for the Future

Prior to the comprehensive facility planning study accomplished through the grant noted above, it was assumed that our school septic capacity was limited to 600 and we would need to look beyond our current site for future growth. Professionals completing the study reported that this is not true. This information gives our current board, or a future board, the option to build on this site to accommodate future growth. This comprehensive plan is in the final stages and will be published when finished.

Enrollment History

1982	110 students
1992	252 students
2002	329 students
Current	423 students

We welcome your input, feedback and participation. Please feel free to contact Superintendent Kloker at the school at 442-6779 with any questions or comments. We thank you for your continued support as we educate the wonderful children of this district.

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